



MLK Jr. and The Civil Rights Movement

By: Lori McDonald
Elementary school teacher; Ed.D. in School Leadership/Administration

History
Grades K-2



Introduction

In examining the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the book, *Martin's Big Words*, by Doreen Rappaport, students are inspired to look for ways in which the world could be better and how they, as citizens, can work toward that goal. This writing lesson includes an interactive read-aloud, partner activities, and brainstorming that culminates in a writing assignment in which students will write an opinion piece on how to make the world a better place.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2](#); Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Materials Needed

- *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport

Procedure

Warm-up – Have students come to the carpet and listen to *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport. Discuss the injustices of that era as you read with students.

1. Have students turn and talk with their writing partner about what they heard in the book. They should discuss how things were unfair and what MLK Jr. did to make things better.
2. Have students share their ideas with the whole group. Ask students if they would like to help make the world a better place just like MLK Jr.
3. After students have had time to discuss their ideas, give them independent time to work on their writing. First, students should draw a picture of how they would like to help make the world a better place like Martin did in the book.
4. Then, students should write 1-2 sentences about their drawing, making sure to tell how they would make the world a better place like Martin did.

Evaluation

Use the following rubric to evaluate students' writing.



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Categories	4	3	2
Sentences	There is a drawing and 2 ideas/sentences that are on-topic.	There is a drawing and 1 sentence that is on-topic.	The drawing and/or the sentences are not on-topic.
Punctuation	All sentences end with correct punctuation.	Most sentences end with correct punctuation.	None of the sentences end with correct punctuation.
Capitalization	All sentences begin with a capital letter.	Most sentences begin with a capital letter.	None of the sentences begin with a capital letter.
Neatness	All words are neat and clearly written.	Most words are clearly written.	None of the words are clearly written.